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WALTER MEAYERS EDWARDS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

ward, offering bountiful land on which to graze cattle and grow crops after the search for gold subsided. Argentina's hard-riding, independent Gauchos followed the herds as they roamed freely, prospering on the rich, wild grasses. Under these conditions, Argentina's cattle population soared into the millions. Any would-be rancher was allowed to round up as many as 12,000 head and call them his own. The wandering Gaucho thought nothing of killing a steer in order to slice out a choice steak for lunch, leaving the rest to the buzzards.

The pampas, like North America's cowboy country, are relatively tame now. But their productivity, streamlined by some 40,000 purring tractors, is more impressive than ever. The city of Buenos Aires owes much of its growth to its position as a shipping center for the produce of the plains. There, one of the largest refrigerating plants in the world is capable of processing 5,000 cattle and 10,000 sheep every day. Massive grain elevators line the water front. Center of a network of railways and roads, Buenos Aires is also terminus for the river traffic on the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, both of which tap the interior.

Rich as the Argentine cattleman or farmer may be, he faces one severe hazard—fire. A combination of drought, high winds, and sparks from old steam locomotives (now being replaced by Diesels) or tractor exhausts can set off a blistering inferno, extending intermittently perhaps as much as 40 miles, and devouring crops, livestock, buildings. The climate of the pampas—healthful as the land climbs towards its highest point, 1,200 feet above sea level—is often dangerously dry. Fire loss is usually insignificant

Tealike Maté Leaves, Ground by Hand, Furnish Popular Beverage for Argentines

W. H. EAGLE

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Pampas, Once Ignored, Now Enrich Argentina

When Spain's conquistadors discovered Argentina in 1516, the treeless plains which the Indians called pampas failed to interest them. They sought glittering pagan cities, rich gold mines, not flat grassland.

Yet today over one half of Argentina's wealth comes from one fifth of its area—the fertile acres of the Texas-size pampas. Stretching from the Atlantic to the foothills of the Andes, and inching upward at the average rate of three feet to the mile, the pampas are one of the world's chief breadbaskets, supplying international markets with wheat and meat and serving as a treasure trove for 18,393,000 Argentines.

Superimposed on the United States, Argentina is only as wide as from New York to Chicago, though its length would extend from Hudson Bay to Florida's Key West. Yet within its relatively narrow width lie some of the basic physical features of the United States. It has its east coast, where its greatest city Buenos Aires counts close to three and a half million residents. Up the Paraná River the busy port of Rosario ships grain to all the world. In the west, the towering Andes, which mark the border between Argentina and Chile, are the southern extension of the Rocky Mountains—but considerably higher. Mt. Aconcagua, 23,035 feet high, is the tallest peak in the Western Hemisphere. Even so, it barely tops some of its mighty neighbors.

Similarly, the pampas are the South American version of the prairies. Like their northern counterpart, they lured the adventurous west-

LUIS MARDEN, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Galloping across grassy pampas, this modern Gaucho shows old-time skill with whirling *boleadoras* whose lead weights will wrap rope leaders around calf's legs.

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Towering Africans Top the World's Tall Men

Any American basketball coach would look speculatively at the African warrior below. He stands nearly seven feet tall—a lofty man even within his race which scientists regard as the tallest in the world. He is a Watusi who lives in Ruanda-Urundi, attached to the Belgian Congo, not far from the source of the Nile. In the same area of central Africa are other tribes of towering men—the Lotuka, whose six-foot-plus frames are usually unclothed, and the lion-hunting Masai. Strangely enough, the southernmost of these Nilotic "giants" live near the Ituri Forest whose 40,000 pygmy residents average only four feet six inches.

What accounts for the difference in stature between Watusi and pygmy, between the American GI of World War II and the doughboy, three-quarters of an inch shorter on the average, of World War I? Scientists offer only educated guesses at the answers.

W. ROBERT MOORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Diet is one suggestion. Africa's tall tribesmen are cattle raisers and meat eaters. Today's Americans eat more regularly and more varied fare than their parent generation. Chinese and Japanese who are raised in the United States on American diet grow taller than their relatives back home.

As long as living standards provide constantly improving diet and medical care, it seems likely that young people will keep outstripping their parents' height. But American men, now averaging five feet eight inches, aren't likely soon to catch up with the gaily dressed Watusi.

References—*National Geographic Magazine*, Dec., 1954, "Safari from Congo to Cairo"; March, 1952, "White Magic in the Belgian Congo"; April, 1912, "Land of Giants and Pygmies" (out of print; refer to your library); GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, Jan. 3, 1955, "The Door Is Open in the Belgian Congo."

The *National Geographic Magzine Cumulative Index* lists all material ever printed in the *Magazine*.

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ARGENTINE EMBASSY

Happy Children Reflect Clean, Modern Atmosphere of Their Convalescent Home in Jujuy

compared with the country's total volume of production, but it remains a serious problem to the individual rancher.

The rich pampas have established Argentina as a world power. Agricultural wealth is reflected in spectacular Buenos Aires which, despite a few old Spanish buildings reminiscent of the city's founding in 1580, boasts an impressive array of modern structures, set off by parks and plazas. Wide, tree-shaded streets slice the city into rectangles.

Even some of the old customs of the citizens are yielding to a new, streamlined way of life. Quick-lunch counters and snack bars are beginning to elbow out the old-time leisurely meals during which each Argentine was said to consume a share of "two pounds of meat a day."

Clothing rules, too, have relaxed in modern Argentina. Men may now take off their coats in Buenos Aires parks during the midsummer heat of Christmas and New Year. And, out on the pampas, the Gaucho is beginning to forsake his baggy pants in favor of dungarees.

References—Argentina is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of South America. Write the Society, Washington 6, D. C., for a map price list. *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1939, "Buenos Aires: Queen of the River of Silver"; Oct. 1933, "Life on the Argentine Pampa"; GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, Jan. 5, 1953, "Ruins on Paraná River Recall Bygone Era"; Jan. 14, 1952, "Varied Geographic Regions Make up Argentina." *School and library discount price for Magazine issues a year old or less, 50¢; through 1946, 65¢. Write for prices of earlier issues.*

fought for the fortress commanding approaches to Catalonia. It reached its zenith of strength at the 13th century's end. Louis IX built the outer walls and towers, his son Philip the Bold enlarged and reinforced the inner walls.

WALTER MEAYERS EDWARDS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF, AND MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS (TOP AND BOTTOM)

The age of firearms outmoded these fortifications. But swordplay still echoes through the restored walls as modern fencing teams from Carcassonne and nearby towns parry and thrust in annual tournaments. More than 33,000 persons live in Carcassonne, including those of Ville Basse (lower town) outside the walls.

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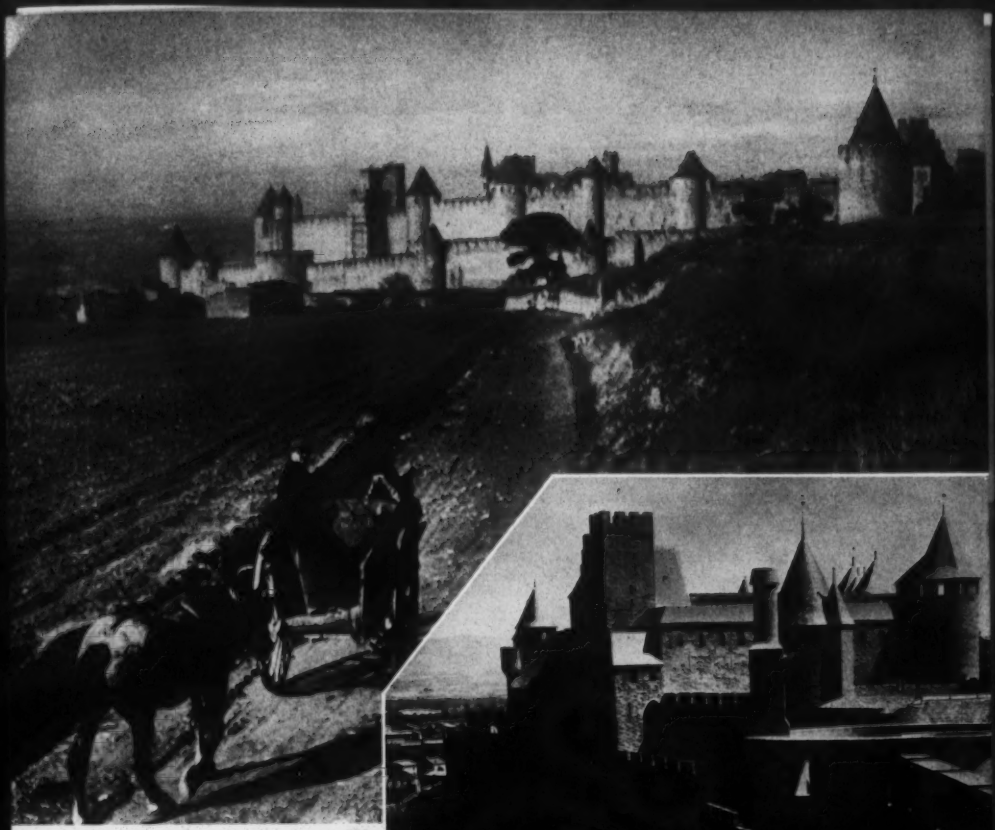

In Carcassonne Past Is Present

As you drive along the plain of Carcassonne in southern France, a fairy-tale city appears against the sky, a mirage of turrets, towers, battlements, cone-shaped roofs.

Rub your eyes all you like, but the double-walled city still stands, living museum of the age of chivalry. You half expect a welcoming tantivy of emblazoned trumpets or a softer serenade by a dulcimer-playing troubadour.

Instead, you follow a Languedoc farmer and his horse-cart over the drawbridge and onto a cobblestone street lined with stores and houses. Life goes on in 20th-century style until 9 p.m. when the drawbridge closes and the ramparts brood of feudal sieges and fallen knights.

This was a fortified spot in Caesar's day. Many armies fought for the fortress commanding approaches to Cata-

ness of virgin growth, left it a brown desert of slash and stumps, and moved on to new areas.

By the turn of the century, the drain on the nation's forest resources worried conservationists who preached selective cutting of certain trees and reseeding of stripped forest lands. Gradually, these improved forestry methods took hold among the logging companies, who saw in them insurance against a treeless future. But not until World War II did the enlightened methods filter down to the small landowners.

Every acre of forest became important in filling the wartime demand for wood. So schools of forestry, state and county foresters, and conservation organizations joined in trying to persuade every landowner to think of his trees as a farm crop—to be harvested only when a new crop is on the way. A tree-farm movement was born in 1941, christened by the Weyerhaeuser Company, and largely sponsored and coordinated by American Forest Products Industries, Inc.

Now the little sign "Tree Farm" stands impartially beside western mountain slopes spiked with lofty Douglas fir and three- or four-acre back-yard plots of eastern white pine mixed with hardwood. It serves as a badge of merit.

The forestry techniques that earn it vary according to the type of land and timber. Generally, the big-time farmer practices selective cutting

Giant Logs Are Snaked from This Idaho Mountainside While Young Firs, Unharmed by the Tree-Farming Lumbermen, Grow Tall to Fill the Gaps

BOISE PAYETTE LUMBER COMPANY

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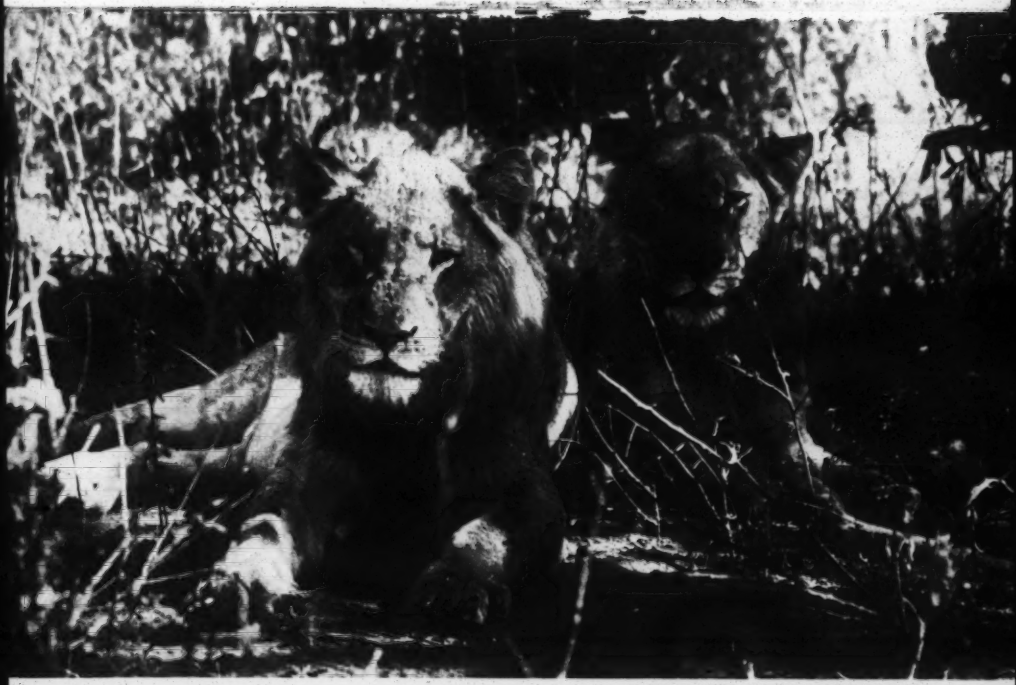
AMERICAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, INC.

Tree Farmers Say, "Keep Them Growing"

This story isn't about the dairy cattle, grazing placidly on the New Hampshire farm, above. It's about the trees in the background—a 160-acre woodlot which the farmer tends as carefully as he ministers to his livestock. Every year he fells some of those tall pines, always making sure that seedlings are growing in their places. He cultivates his little forest as though it were a field of corn.

Because he treats his woodlot as a crop, this landowner is known as a tree farmer. His is one of about 6,000 tree farms which have sprung up in the United States, mostly since World War II, to conserve the cutting and maintain the continual growth of lumber. His is a small one, earning him a $700 to $800 bonus every year, on top of his regular income from dairy products. But it shares the same principles of forestry with huge tree farms of the northwest, run by lumber companies like Weyerhaeuser, Potlatch Forests, Crown Zellerbach, J. Neils Lumber, and others. Their combined acreage totals close to 8,000,000, and their motive is to make sure there are always trees to harvest, year after year.

Loggers weren't always so conscious of the future. Their colorful 19th-century heyday, when they slept 40 men to a single shelflike bunk and went bathless for an entire winter, was an age of waste as well as romance. "Cut and get out" was their slogan as they hacked into a wilder-



W. ROBERT MOORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

African Lions, Happy in Their Upland Domain, Are Spared Competition from Tigers

India, Home of the Tiger, Encourages Lions

Lions come from Africa, tigers from India—that's the way sight-seers at the zoo drill themselves in basic natural history. But the fact is, lions were once plentiful throughout the world. Southeastern Europe's rocky, wooded ridges echoed their thunderous roar; their sinuous bodies flashed across the Near East plains.

Even in India, the tiger's own country, there remain up to 100 lions in the Gir forest of the northwest state of Kathiawar. So scarce are these tawny cats becoming that India's government is laying down the law to the King of Beasts in order to prevent his extinction. Just as Americans halted the slaughter of the buffalo when civilization had almost wiped them out, so Indians want to save the last of their lions.

The Indian government considers lions uncomfortably crowded in their home lands. To help out the den shortage it has decreed that tigers—which are in good supply—must vacate the jungles of central India in favor of lions. Since the only way to evict tigers and make sure they stay evicted, according to government opinion, is to shoot them, hunters are being sent out to clear the way for underprivileged lions.

These two members of the cat family now competing for paw room in India are a good deal alike in size, shape, teeth, and claws. The lion boasts an impressive feature in his mane, which reaches its full luxuriance when he is five to seven years old. Only males are lucky enough to have this adornment. Cubs are born with stripes or splotches which vanish with babyhood. The coat becomes a spotless, tawny tan.

The lion can be taught to perform tricks in circuses. Its decorative appearance and reputation for strength and courage have brought it great

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by designating a whole block of forest for harvest. Machines and men move in and shave this block bare. But perhaps on three sides of it is mature forest, entirely uncut. Nature does the rest as seeds from the old forest blow into the clearing, take root, and sprout into seedlings, sheltered by the big trees. The new growth gets a foothold and begins its long development—in the case of fir it may take over a century to reach its prime and be worth harvesting again. While it is maturing, the logging company helps it along by thinning out poor trees, spraying by airplane to kill parasites, keeping a constant eye peeled for the smoke signal of that deadly enemy, fire.

One hundred years may seem a long time for impatient lumbermen to wait for a harvest. But when the tree farm is planned right, its blocks of forest are at all stages of growth. Every year one tract of towering trees is ready for the singing saws. The new motto is "cut, and keep them growing."

Basically, the man with the small woodlot does the same thing, but he selects individual trees rather than blocks of trees. Often with the help of a forester, he marks his most mature trees for cutting. He chooses them primarily for their value as timber, but he also keeps in mind the difficulties of getting logging equipment into his woods. If he owns various types of trees he must remember their reseeding habits. In a mixed stand of timber, hardwood seeds tend to monopolize the cleared soil if evergreen seeds haven't reached maturity.

Once the young trees are on their way, filling in the gaps left by the harvest, the tree farmer thins out the poorer specimens, removes unwanted growths, yet leaves a fringe of weed trees like gray birch and swamp maple around his plot to protect it against high winds and sun scorch, which blisters the bark and causes a damaging seam in the lumber.

For the small farmer, tree farming means additional income and increased land value. Without half trying, he can earn a profit of three to five dollars an acre every year. He can triple this income by careful planning and hard work.

Aside from receiving this pleasant reward, the small-time tree farmer is also making an important contribution to his country. American forests produce nearly 50 billion board feet of timber a year—for building houses, manufacturing paper, making furniture, aircraft carrier decks, telephone poles, railroad ties, and thousands of other everyday commodities. Consumption of wood products by every American is at least ten times the world average, yet American forests make up less than a tenth of the world's forest regions. To help fill this intensive demand, the smallest tree farm plays its part.

"Everyday Life in Ancient Times"

A volume compiled by the National Geographic Society brings to life the peoples of the ancient lands where Western civilization originated—Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Illustrated with 120 full-color paintings by H. M. Herget and written by four noted authorities, the 356-page volume is available to schools at $5.00 a copy postpaid in the United States and its possessions, and $5.25 abroad.

A. CHAND

Though He's a Cat, the Tiger Likes Swimming in an Indian Jungle River

popularity as a model for monuments. Sculptured lions guarding the Nelson monument in Trafalgar Square, London, are world famous. Less renowned but worthy of notice are the lions at the entrance to the main building of the New York Public Library and several pairs crouching on bridges in Washington, D. C.

The lion lets go his roar with head so close to the ground that the blood-chilling sound reverberates like thunder. He outroars all animaldom, but the tiger is a close second and is generally considered fiercer. He sticks close to his jungle, raiding chiefly at night to seize cattle, antelope, wild hogs, and other tasty morsels. When old age or lameness makes it hard for him to hunt, he may turn to easier prey—human beings. Once he becomes a man-eater, the striped terror can cause the evacuation of entire villages.

Chief dissimilarity between the two imposing beasts is that the lion, unlike cousin tiger, detests the jungle, far preferring his upland plains. Unless he changes his tastes, he won't enjoy obeying India's law and moving into deep forests that the government has cleared for his comfort.

References—*National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1950, "Roaming Africa's Unfenced Zoos"; Feb., 1943, "King of Cats and His Court."